

Chip's Chat-



Planning assumes control of your environment – preparation involves training, intuition, and instinct. Let's stop writing so many plans that never get followed and let's start preparing our people for the competitive environment that they will battle in every day.

I love fall. It is the time of year that gets us thinking about the oncoming winter weather. We develop a plan for living through the winter and we make preparations. For example, we prepare for winter by bringing in the lawn furniture, disconnecting our garden hoses, replace the screen on our screen doors with glass, maybe clean our fireplaces, and the list goes on.

In my first career, we used to say “failure to plan means you plan to fail.”

We plan and prepare something nearly everyday or even moment. We plan to go to the grocery store and prepare by making a list of the things we need. We plan to fill our cars with gas and we prepare by taking the car to the gas station and removing the gas cap. We plan our future careers and prepare to enter our chosen field through preparation in education and training.

I think you get the point. But I ask, how do we plan or prepare our faith? Do we need to? How do we prepare for the Lord's Second coming?

Let's start by finding out what the Bible says about planning. The Bible is full of people planning. There are Bible verses about God's

plan. Scripture references about preparation and Biblical reasons to be prepared.

God, himself, is a planner. Look at the creation story in Genesis. Even after the fall, God had a plan for our salvation through Jesus Christ. Look at the detailed instructions he gave to the “Heroes” of the Bible. Do we not believe that God has a plan for our lives?

There are many examples of the Bible heroes having created God-inspired plans. In fact, God is actually in the middle of our planning. The best plans come when we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us.

The scripture references in the Bible are plentiful regarding planning. Here are a few

- Proverbs 16:3 – Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.
- Proverbs 16:9 – The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
- Proverbs 15:22 – Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers, they succeed.
- Proverbs 19:21 – Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.
- Psalms 20:4 – May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!
- Acts 2:23 – This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- Luke 9:51 – When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem
- Luke 14:28-30 – For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete

it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

But how do we prepare and work on our faith? I believe the first step is to improve our relationship to the Lord. In a CD by Chuck Swindoll entitled "Intimacy with the Almighty," Swindoll says:

"There are steps we need to take in the process. He says we should strive for Simplicity, Silence, a Solitude which leads to Serenity, to humbly Surrender by saying "I want the Father's will for my life."

Intimacy with God is the closest of all relationships. It is when and where you can be blatantly honest, completely open, able to share your deepest fear or your most frightening thoughts without shame or risk of rejection. It is at the heart of a personal relationship with God. It doesn't just happen; you must work for it.

As we continue in improving our relationship to the Lord, we must also do some preparation. The way in which a person comes to anything demonstrates the spirit in which they come. We learn in Ephesians 6:11-13 we must prepare daily:

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

In addition, we must put on the garments of the mind and heart of the soul. WE put on the garment of expectation, humble penitence, faith, and reverence.

Finally, we need silence to listen to the Holy Spirit. I will close this month's article with a prayer found in a book by Henri Nouwen entitled "A Cry for Mercy." I think this is a wonderful

prayer that illustrates the type of "Intimacy with the Father" we should strive to achieve. May God bless you as you make plans and preparations in your faith journey.

Word Out of Silence

O Lord Jesus, your words to your Father were born out of your silence. Lead me into this silence, so that my words may be spoken in your name and thus be fruitful. It is so hard to be silent, silent with my mouth, but even more, silent with my heart. There is so much talking going on within me. It seems that I am always involved in inner debates with myself, my friends, my enemies, my supporters, my opponents, my colleagues, and my rivals. But this inner debate reveals how far my heart is from you. If I were simply to rest at your feet and realize that I belong to you and you alone, I would easily stop arguing with all the real and imagined people around me. These arguments show my insecurity, my fear, my apprehensions, and my need for being recognized and receiving attention. You, O Lord, will give me all the attention I need if I would simply stop talking and start listening to you. I know that in the silence of my heart you will speak to me and show me your love. Give me, O Lord, that silence. Let me be patient and grow slowly into this silence in which I can be with you. Amen.



**THERE IS
always, always, always,
SOMETHING TO BE
GRATEFUL FOR.**

— Rhonda Byrne

Military Christmas Poem (by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt)

'Twas The Night Before Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In A One Bedroom House
Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who
In This Home Did Live.

I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures
Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought
Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor
In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Such Disorder,
Not How I Pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was This The Hero
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families
That I Saw This Night,
Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers
Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,

And Grownups Would Celebrate
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom
Each Month Of The Year,
Because Of The Soldiers,
Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder
How Many Lay Alone,
On A Cold Christmas Eve
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought
Brought A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom,
I Don't Ask For More,
My Life Is My God,
My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours,
So Silent And Still
And We Both Shivered
From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave
On That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

One Look At My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
And To All A Good Night."

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 1031/2024

Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$11837.59

Total Income	5996.04
Total Expenses	11837.59
Net Income	-5841.55

Thank you for supporting our church

Sunday Worship Attendance

2024

October 6	22
October 13	31
October 20	33
October 27	28



Nov. 17 Kathy Paulson
 Nov 21 Donna Enfield
 Nov 29 Bob Hiltz



Head Usher for November: Cheryl Hiltz

	Liturgist
November 3	Linda Wagner
November 10	Ruth Andersen
November 17	Libby Underhill
November 24	Dianne Roholt

Greeter
Bev Novak
Gini Sande
Palmer Berg
Linnea Mostad

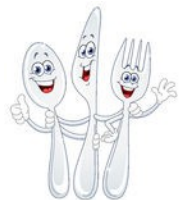
Kitchen: Brenda Miller with helpers, Bob Wagner, Linda Wagner, Terri Murray

Communion: Set up: Nancy Weber

Server: Brenda Miller Terri Murray



Tutto Bene Supper Club



Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, November 21 at 5:30pm.

Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 444-2859 for your reservations!

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

All are welcome!

November Benevolence



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

During this season of unrest and change, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. **Together**, our gifts work to build God's household where all can find shelter, where all can find love. Your generosity helps build a Matthew 25 Church: a home of wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crises, disrupting the cycle of poverty. Your generosity creates a space for justice, dismantling systemic racism, and it enlivens the Church, giving voice to the declaration that we, the church are not dying, but are filled with vitality and live.

A Season of Peace is upon us, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness Offering, usually taken on World Communion Sunday, we have the opportunity to promote the Peace of Christ in our own communities and around the world. Congregations are encouraged to use up to 25% of this Offering, with the remainder going to your mid-council and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support this same mission of peace.

Thank you, again, for giving to enable all people to know God's life-giving welcome in Jesus Christ. **Together**, we are the church, building the household of Christ.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking>



Your session at work

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN**

September 17, 2024 APPROVED: 10-15-24

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on September 17, 2024, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, Bev Novak, and Libby Underhill.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

MEETING MINUTES - MSP to approve the minutes from the August Session meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notice from Presbytery that the 2025 Per Capita will be \$38

Request from a basketball shooting competition to use the gym on September 22nd. **MSP to not approve**

Sunday Worship Attendance:

August 25th: **23** September 1st: **24** September 8th: **26** September 15th: **29**

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report – September 17, 2024

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: None

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: None

Communion: September 1, 2024: 24 served

Membership as of September 17, 2024: 63

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel: Chairperson: Bev Novak; Presbytery is requiring online Boundary Training every three years for all staff. Additional required policies are forthcoming. Chip will be gone Sunday, October 20th.

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson: Terri Murray; Terri's son-in-law will repair outside window ledges; ChemDry will clean the carpets the end of October.

Finance Report & Stewardship: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Financial reports for August were reviewed.

Adult & Christian Education: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers will start again on September 25th at 12pm.

Outreach: Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf on August 23rd and will serve again on September 27th. Meals on Wheels were served the last week of August.

Worship & Music: Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; Advent begins December 1st. Discussion was held regarding church preparation for Advent.

OTHER BUSINESS

A grant from the Beltrami Electric Round-Up program will be written for purchasing an AED.
The deadline is September 20th.

Due to time constraints, no action was taken on the church's new website this month. Libby will continue to pursue other vendors as possible webmasters for the site.

NEW BUSINESS

Hope House has requested to use the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st from 3-8pm. **MSP** to approve.

Terri Murray has requested to use the Gym and Fellowship Hall for her grandson's birthday party on December 13th. **MSP** to approve.

The annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be Sunday, December 8th at 3pm. Wayne Hoff has agreed to be part of the program. **MSP** to approve.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session



Sun-
days
10:00
am
Wor-
ship



Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

					1	2 Turn your Clocks back
3 Daylight Sav- ings Time Pastor Chip Communion	4 7pm Scouts	5 School	6 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	7	8	9
10 Pastor Chip	11 Veterans Day 7pm Scouts	12 School	13 12pm Seekers 6:30 Calvary Chapel	14 5:30-Supper Club	15	16
17 Randy McGuire	18 7pm Scouts	19 1pm Session Meeting	20 1:30Pm Mary Martha Circle at Raphael 12Pm Seekers	21 Hope House Thanksgiving Dinner 3-8	22	23
24 Pastor Chip Baptism Pledge Sunday	25 7pm Scouts	26 School	27 12Pm Seekers		29	30



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